



Internet P 2

IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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T.W.L.

**Patent Application**

Inventor(s)	Joseph D La Scola Michael Reilly	Case Name	Internet P 2
Filing Date	11/8/2001	Serial No.	10/006,917
Examiner	Deborah M. Brann	Group Art Unit	3632
Title	Optical Cable Guide and Support		

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
SIR:

AMENDMENT

In response to an Office action dated July 18, 2002 please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 2, line 26, with:*

FIG. 3 presents one embodiment of a fiber support assembly in accord with the principles of this invention. Primarily, it comprises trough element 100 with sides 101 and 103, and bottom 102. The opening of the trough, opposite side 102, is partially closed off by side 104. Two support members, each formed to have surfaces 110, 111, and 112 that are bent relative to each other, and are attached to trough 100, spaced apart from each other by a preselected distance. Trough 100 and the two support members can be made of the same material, such as aluminum, or relatively rigid plastic, and the support members are attached to trough 100 in an appropriate manner. For example, when the material used is aluminum, the support members may be spot-welded, or screwed, to side 103 of trough 100. The angles that surface 111 is made to have with respect to surfaces 110 and 112 are such that when surface 110 is in the vertical plane (the plane formed by axes y and x), surface 112 and sides 101 and 103 are roughly in the horizontal plane (defined by axes x and z), resulting in the trough opening being roughly in the vertical plane. It should be understood that the purposes of trough 100 are served well even when the opening of trough element 100 is somewhat away from the vertical

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plane; for example, away by 20 degrees. Surface 110 includes a number of holes 120 adapted for attaching the entire FIG. 3 assembly to a frame of equipment modules, or to equipment modules themselves.

*Please replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 5, line 3 with:*

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The above disclosed the principles of this invention, but it should be realized that various modifications and alterations can be made by those who are skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of this invention. For example, FIG. 3 employs a partial wall 104 as a detent means. FIG. 7 presents a more positive detent means in the form of outer ridges 111 and 112 on sides 101 and 103, and a detent clip 115 that includes corresponding ridges 116 and 117. When clip 115 is snapped into the opening of trough 100, ridges 116 and 117 interlock with ridges 111 and 112 to prevent clip 115 from snapping off, but clip 115 can easily slide along the long axis of trough 100. The sliding movement prevents fibers that are inserted in trough 100 from assuming a bending radius of less than a pre-selected value.

FIG. 8 presents yet another detent means, which builds on the FIG. 3 trough. A strip, which comprises a plastic snap portion 126 to which a neoprene wiper portion 125 is attached, is snapped onto the respective edges of sides 101 and 104. As depicted in FIG. 8, the two wiper portions allow easy placement of fibers into trough 100, but make it difficult for fibers to come out.

IN THE CLAIMS:

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SUB 1  
1. An assembly comprising:  
a trough element having a trough opening; and  
a support subassembly coupled to said trough element and adapted to be fixedly attached to an apparatus in a manner that causes said trough opening to generally face said apparatus.

2. The assembly of claim 1 where said support subassembly is adjustable to enable said trough opening to be at an adjustable distance from said apparatus.